



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) increased four-tenths of a percentage point from November to December 2001 (see Table 1). The increase was expected as layoffs at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) were finalized for the year and construction decreased for the winter. Each of the four counties' unemployment rates increased five-tenths of a percentage point month-over-month with the exception of Bingham County, which increased three-tenths of a percentage point. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, increased six-tenths of a percentage point to a current 3.8 percent, the highest it has been since April 2000. Bingham (4.9), Bonneville (3.6), Butte (4.2) and Jefferson (4.0) Counties showed decreases or remained unchanged from December 2000 with the exception of Bonneville County, which increased four-tenths of a percentage point, mostly as a result of INEEL layoffs.

The other six counties that are not part of the LMA all showed increases in their unemployment rate over the month. Clark County increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.2 percent, Custer County increased 1.3 percentage points to 7.0 percent, Fremont County increased seven-tenths of a percentage point to 6.7 percent, Lemhi County increased five-tenths of a percentage point to 7.6 percent, Madison County increased three-tenths of a percentage point to 2.2 percent, and Teton County increased three-tenths of a percentage point to 3.2 percent. A year-over-year comparison shows that all six counties decreased by at least four-tenths of a percentage point; Lemhi decreased the most (2.3 percentage points) since the December 2000 figure, which was affected by the 2000 fires and layoffs at Beartrack and Thompson Creek Mines throughout the year.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (jobs by place of work) decreased 390 over the month. *Goods-Producing Industries* showed a decrease of 480 jobs, all from *Construction* as it dipped the later part of November and

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	Dec 2001*	Nov 2001	Dec 2000	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	85,690	85,530	79,670	0.2	7.6
Unemployment	3,450	3,050	3,150	13.1	9.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	3.6	4.0		
Total Employment	82,240	82,480	76,520	-0.3	7.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	84,700	85,410	78,710	-0.8	7.6
Unemployment	3,410	2,690	3,090	26.8	10.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	3.2	3.9		
Total Employment	81,290	82,720	75,620	-1.7	7.5
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
<i>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</i>	63,350	63,740	62,360	-0.6	1.6
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	8,710	9,190	8,910	-5.2	-2.2
Mining & Construction	3,700	4,190	3,620	-11.7	2.2
Manufacturing	5,010	5,000	5,290	0.2	-5.3
Food Processing	2,620	2,610	2,860	0.4	-8.4
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	440	440	480	0.0	-8.3
All Other Manufacturing	1,950	1,950	1,950	0.0	0.0
<i>Service-Producing Industries</i>	54,640	54,550	53,450	0.2	2.2
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,700	2,720	2,370	-0.7	13.9
Wholesale Trade	5,220	5,220	6,060	0.0	-13.9
Retail Trade	11,550	11,420	11,670	1.1	-1.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,910	1,900	1,800	0.5	6.1
Services	21,400	21,350	20,920	0.2	2.3
Government Administration	5,860	5,910	5,240	-0.8	11.8
Government Education	6,000	6,030	5,390	-0.5	11.3
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

into December when snow and extreme cold weather forced layoffs. *Service-Producing Industries* showed an increase of 90 jobs with *Retail Trade*, *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* showing a gain over losses in *Transportation, Communications & Utilities*; *Government Administration*; and *Government Education*. *Retail Trade* normally increases due to increased shopping during the holidays, and *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* increases were very slight. *Utility* losses were slight, and *Communications* loss was due to contract changes in several companies. *Government Administration* faced some losses with budgetary changes and *Government Education* was somewhat affected by changes in curriculums.

A year-over-year comparison saw an increase of 990 in *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*, mostly in the *Service-Producing Industries*. *Wholesale Trade*, mostly *Non-durables*, saw a rather significant decrease with low temperatures over the month preventing shipment and preparation of some raw products. *Communications* added 280 jobs as new services and equipment were made available to customers. *Services* increased 480 jobs with gains in the sectors of *Business Services* (940) and *Health Services* (160) counteracting losses in *Engineering & Management* (540 jobs) from INEEL layoffs and early retirements in 2001. *Government Administration (Local)* and *Government Education (mostly Local)*

each showed increases of over 600 jobs from December 2000. Governing tribal employment was changed from the private sector to *Government Administration* (Fort Hall numbers are part of the LMA). *Goods-Producing Industries* experienced a loss of 200 jobs, with *Food & Kindred Products* and *Preserved Fruits* the contributors. Several companies in these sectors added more automation over the last several years, decreasing the need for the number of workers in the *Food Processing* industry.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- ML Technologies took advantage of a business closure while helping to stabilize the economy. Lucero Computer Services ceased operations after 17 years and Fred Miyasaki, president of ML Technologies, hired the staff and took over the customer base under ML's name. This allows the customer base to maintain uninterrupted technical service, get parts, upgrades, equipment, and repairs from the same familiar location on Lincoln Road in Idaho Falls. The addition of Lucero's staff, with their technical certifications and manufacturer's authorizations, fits into ML Technology's strategy—to be a national source for complete information technology solutions. The company has other offices throughout the United States including Idaho Falls and St. Anthony.
- Plans to build a 180-unit upscale apartment complex in Ammon have been announced. Bach Corporation of Utah will start building this spring on an eight-acre parcel of land between Edwards Cinemas and Hillcrest High School. Bach Corporation chose the area for its proximity to stores and the mall, and because it is a high-growth area. The complex will be built in two phases and will include a clubhouse/fitness center and swimming pool.
- Wood Funeral Home plans to open its second mortuary in Ammon. Phase one, a 7,200-square-foot building, should be completed in March at 963 South Ammon Road. Phase two will soon begin on a 2,000-square-foot addition. The mortuary offers everything the Idaho Falls location offers except cremation. Wood has been in operation since 1919 in Idaho Falls and is opening this second location because of Ammon's growth and their lack of a mortuary.
- Developer Tom Arave of Arave Construction in Blackfoot is constructing two facilities in Ammon. A building on the northeast corner of Hitt and Sunny-side Roads will house a Chevron station and lube bay, car wash, convenience store, and Pickerman's Restaurant. The 6,400-square-foot building is due to open in May. His other project is an 84-unit apartment complex on Seventeenth Street near Sonic Drive-In. The complex will include studio and one-bedroom apartments renting from between \$250 and \$475 per month, including utilities.
- Pet Stop opened in October at 265 First Street. The business sells puppies, kittens, birds, and basic pet supplies. Hours are Monday through Saturday,

9 a.m. to 7 p.m. More information is available at 552-0237.

- Bennigan's is opening a restaurant at Taylor Crossing on the River in Idaho Falls. The location currently is marked with a sign on the river next to ABS Mechanical, off of Utah Avenue. McNeil Development says the building should be ready in the spring of 2003.

Fremont County

- The new Ashton Living Center is almost ready for operation in Ashton. It will replace Ashton Memorial Hospital, the 50-year-old facility that currently only operates the nursing care facility. The Living Center will have 38 beds and will offer private rooms, assisted living, a larger physical therapy room, and more space and equipment to take care of outpatients. It will be visible from Highway 20. Employment is expected to rise from 45 to almost 60 full-time people.

Teton County

- Big Hole Music has moved to a new location on Little Avenue next to O'Rourke's Restaurant in Driggs. The move to its new building allows for a wider selection of CDs, instruments, and accessories. There will also be space for a teaching room that several teachers can use as a central location for interested customers. Owner John Collins makes violins, and repairs violins, violas, and cellos downstairs.
- Knobe's Radio Shack moved at the end of December to a more convenient location by Big Hole Music on Little Avenue in Driggs. The move helped increase traffic and allowed for a copy center for copy, laminating, and binding jobs. It now offers a larger selection of office supplies and furniture, and additional storage room helps keep special orders manageable.
- Edge Photo, a Victor business, and Teton Video moved into the Black Hawk building on Main Street in Driggs.

Lemhi County

- District 7 Health Department moved into its new community health building on Monroe Street in Salmon in early February. An Idaho Community Development block grant was used towards the construction costs of the 3,018-square-foot building. The office has five employees.

Madison County

- Melina's Mexican Food opened in December on West Main Street in Rexburg. The franchise is owned by Jose Chaparro. Melina's has several branches throughout Southeast Idaho including locations in Idaho Falls, Blackfoot, and Pocatello.

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